

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this reissue application with Claims 1 and 4 being independent. The specification and Claims 1, 3, and 5 have been amended herein.

The Reissue Oath/Declaration filed with this application was objected to under 37 C.F.R § 1.175(a)(1) as being defective because it stated that the original patent is wholly or partly inoperative or invalid "by reason of other errors." Applicant submits herewith a Supplemental Reissue Oath/Declaration, and respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

The Reissue Oath/Declaration was also objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.178 as being defective for failing to include the original letters patent, or a statement that it is lost or inaccessible. However, Applicant submits that the original letters patent was submitted to the Patent Office with the reissue application, as evidenced by the attached date-stamped postcard. Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 3 and 5 have been amended herein in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions to comply with the requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b)(2) that all subject matter being deleted from an original claim must be placed in brackets.

The Office Action indicated that no support could be found for the amendments to Claim 1, and the amendments to the specification that amend element 34b to refer to a clamp block.

The amendments to Claim 1 are fully supported by the patent. The amendment to change "at least one clamp" to --at least one clamp column-- is supported at least by col. 3, lines 60-64 and Figure 1 of the patent. The amendment to change "wall having a predetermined thickness and height protruding rearward" to --wall extending rearward-- is supported at least by col. 4, lines 15-20 and Figure 2 of the patent. Finally, the amendment to change "wherein said force from said clamp" to --wherein said clamp force applied by said column-- is supported at least by col. 4, lines 11-15 and Figure 2 of the patent.

Likewise, the amendments to the specification to refer to element 34b as a clamp block are also fully supported by the patent. Figure 1 of the patent shows that element 34b is the block housing the clamp column (element 20), hence the designation "clamp block." Further, one skilled in the art would understand from reviewing Figure 1 that it is incorrect to refer to clamp block 34b as a "second stationary platen," as it is not stationary and must be able to slide along the base of the injection molding machine during operation. This is because one end of each tiebar is housed in the stationary platen (element 34a), and as the tiebars expand during operation of the machine, the clamp block 34b which houses the opposite end of each tiebar must permit movement. See *a/so* col. 2, lines 26-48 of the patent, which indicates that the tiebars are designed to resist the clamping force during mold clamp-up.

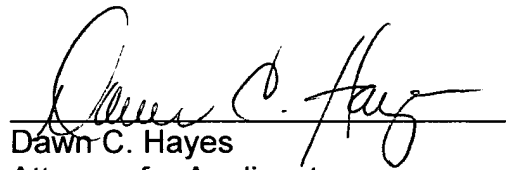
Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 251, as being based upon a defective reissue declaration. In view of the submission of the Supplemental Reissue Oath/Declaration herewith, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicant submits that in view of the amendments and remarks presented above, this reissue application is in condition for allowance and, therefore, respectfully request an early Notice of Allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3549. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dawn C. Hayes", is written over a horizontal line.

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